

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
MAR 29 2004

OLIVE & OLIVE, P.A.
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

B. B. OLIVE
SUSAN FREYA OLIVE

Since 1957

500 MEMORIAL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 2049
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27702-2049
(919) 683-5514
FAX (919) 688-3781

VEDIA JONES-RICHARDSON
JOSHUA L. PRICE
ANDREW T. PROKOPETZ

Administrator:
MARTHA A. ROGER

TELECOPY TRANSMISSION FORM

Firm File Reference: BAAS5002AP

Date: March 29, 2004

<p>Certificate of Transmission by Facsimile (37 CFR 1.8)</p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. 703/872-9306) on March 29, 2004.</p> <p><i>Heidi V. Sullivan</i></p> <p>Heidi V. Sullivan</p>

TO: Examiner N. Legesse
USPTO, GAU 3711
Telecopier Number: 703/872-9306

FROM: Andrew T. Prokopetz, Reg. No. 52,134
Olive & Olive, P.A.
Telecopier Number (U.S.A.): (919) 688-3781

THIS TRANSMISSION CONSISTS OF 2 PAGES, INCLUDING THIS PAGE. IF THERE ARE PROBLEMS WITH THE TRANSMISSION, CALL OLIVE & OLIVE, P.A. AT (919) 683-5514.

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

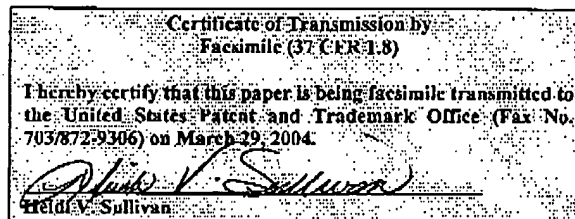
THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FACSIMILE MESSAGE IS CONFIDENTIAL AND IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE ADDRESSEE NAMED ABOVE. IF RECEIVED IN ERROR, PLEASE TELEPHONE OLIVE & OLIVE, P.A. (COLLECT, IF YOU WISH) AT (919) 683-5514, AND DESTROY THE FACSIMILE OR RETURN IT TO US BY FIRST CLASS MAIL, WITHOUT READING SAME. WE WILL REIMBURSE YOU FOR THE NECESSARY POSTAGE AND TELEPHONE CHARGES. THANK YOU.

MESSAGE: Please see the following page(s).

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/881,237 Confirmation No.: 7545
Applicant : Bickel et al.
Filed : June 15, 2001
TC/A.U. : 3711
Examiner : N. Legesse
Docket No. : BAAS5002AP
Customer No. : 029889



Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR CLARIFIED OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action dated March 24, 2004, with regard to the above-identified patent application. The Office Action Summary indicates that the March 24, 2004 Office Action is "[R]esponsive to communication(s) filed on 26 February 2004." Applicants have had no communication with the Patent Office pertaining to this application since January 5, 2004, the date on which the previous Response to Office Action and Amendment was filed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide to them either: a) a copy of any communications filed with the Patent Office after the date of January 5, 2004 pertaining to this application; b) a written record of any telephonic interviews held with Applicants or their patent counsel after the date of January 5, 2004; or c) provide Applicants with a clarified Office Action indicating the correct date to which this Office Action is in response.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew T. Prokopetz
Reg. No. 52,134
Attorney for Applicants

Customer No. 029889
919/683-5514
Dated: March 29, 2004